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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, EC
SUBJECT: BUCARAM COMMENTS ON BLANDON TESTIMONY

SFM

REFS: (A) QUITO 2000 (B) QUITO 1968

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT

2. ABDALA BUCARAM (PRE) HAS STARTED TO PICK UP ON EX-PANAMANIAN CONSUL JOSE BLANDON'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY THAT PANAMANIAN SECURITY FORCES ASSISTED GOE EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT BUCARAM WHEN ABDALA WAS IN PANAMA (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FEBRUARY 19, BUCARAM HAS CRITICIZED ECUADOR'S CONGRESS (CONTROLLED BY THE ID, HE SAID) FOR FAILING TO INVESTIGATE BLANDON'S ACCUSATIONS. (FYI: CONGRESS PRESIDENT ZAVALA SAID FEBRUARY 18 THAT HE FAVORED ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER. NO ID OR PRE MEMBERS WOULD SIT ON THE COMMISSION).

3. BUCARAM ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WOULD ASK U.S. SENATORS TO INVITE HIM TO GIVE TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE ON "THE IMPLICATIONS" OF THE BLANDON AFFAIR. COMMENT: ABDALA IS TRYING TO USE THE BLANDON MATTER TO STRENGTHEN THE PERSECUTION IMAGE WHICH HAS HELPED HIM POLITICALLY IN THE PAST. HE CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT A GRANDSTANDING APPEARANCE BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE WOULD BOOST HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY.
RONDON
END OF MESSAGE

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